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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13
STR-04 OES-07 INT-05 FEAE-00 ACDA-07 /122 W
----------251853Z 041339 /42
R 251204Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH COMMUNISTS IN THE NEWS

1. ON FRIDAY, MAY 20, THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED SPANISH TELEVISION NETWORK DEVOTED 20 MINUTES TO AN INTERVIEW WITH SANTIAGO CARRILLO, SECGEN OF THE PCE. CARRILLO WORE HIS USUAL EUROCOMMUNIST CLOTHING FOR THE OCCASION, ALTHOUGH CENTRIST MADRID DAILY "INFORMACIONES" DESCRIBED HIS PERFORMANCE AS "MORE CIRCUMSPECT, LESS DEMONSTRATIVE, AND LESS CONVINCING" THAN AT OTHER RECENT APPEARANCES.
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2. CARRILLO, CLAIMING THAT THERE WAS "NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM" CALLED VAGUELY FOR A FOUR OR FIVE YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN TO RESTORE PROSPERITY. WITHOUT GOING INTO THE DETAILS OF SUCH A PLAN, HE ADVOCATED NATIONALIZING SOME LARGE BUSINESSES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE FUEL AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES,

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WHILE HOLDING THAT SMALLER FIRMS OUGHT TO CONTINUE IN PRIVATE HANDS.

3. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, CARRILLO:
-- CLAIMED THAT THE PCE WAS NOT ATHEIST, AND POINTED OUT THAT IT INCLUDED MANY CHRISTIANS AND EVEN SOME PRIESTS.
-- AFFIRMED THAT PRIVATE SCHOOLS MIGHT CONTINUE TO EXIST ALONGSIDE STATE SCHOOLS.
-- ADVOCATED THE EVENTUAL CREATION OF A SINGLE UNIVERSAL LABOR UNION, IN WHICH ALL POLITICAL VIEWS WOULD BE REPRESENTED, WHILE DENYING (UNCONVINCINGLY) PCE CONTROL OF THE WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC).
-- CONDEMNED THE PRESENCE OF "AMERICAN BASES" IN SPAIN, IN THE CONTEXT OF A GENERAL CONDEMNATION OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES EVERYWHERE. NONETHELESS, HE OBSERVED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION MIGHT CONTINUE, "AS LONG AS THE PRESENT BALANCE IS RETAINED AND IT DOES NOT LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT WITH ALL OF EUROPE" (COMMENT-READ NATO). HE ADVOCATED A NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY FOR SPAIN, AND TERMED BOTH NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT OBSTACLES TO THE "NEW POLITICAL CONDITION" NOW ARISING.

4. ON MAY 22, CARRILLO FOUND HIMSELF ON THE DEFENSIVE AS HE ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE PRO-SOVIET REMARKS OF PCE PRESIDENT DOLORES IBARRURI, DELIVERED AT AN EMOTIONAL RALLY OF 35,000 SUPPORTERS IN BILBAO. THREE TIMES IN HER VERY BRIEF REMARKS, LA PASIONARIA REFERRED TO "THE GREAT SOVIET NATION". SHE WAS ABSENT (FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"HEALTH REASONS") FROM THE ENSUING PRESS CONFERENCE. CARRILLO TERMED "SPECULATIONS IN BAD TAST" THE INEVITABLE COMPARISONS BETWEEN HER SPEECH AND HIS OWN OFTEN ANTI-SOVIET LINE." IN HER SITUATION, I WOULD HAVE DONE (SAID) THE SAME THING", HE ADDED, NOTING HER 38 YEARS OF EXILE IN THE SOVIET UNION. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HER RECENT STATEMENT THAT "EUROCOMMUNISM DOES NOT EXIST", CARRILLO ANSWERED SOMEWHAT WEARILY, "IT IS VERY STRANGE TO ME THAT DOLORES GAVE THAT REPLY, BECAUSE EUROCOMMUNISM DOES EXIST".

5. BY THE FOLLOWING DAY, CARRILLO APPEARED TO HAVE MADE MODEST PROGRESS IN TEACHING THE ELDERLY STALINIST HER LESSONS. WHILE ONCE AGAIN AFFIRMING THAT "EUROCOMMUNISM DOES NOT EXIST, THE DOCTRINE IS THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE WORLD", SHE WENT ON TO SAY, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE NEAR BILBAO, THAT "COMMUNISM CANNOT BE APPLIED IN THE SAME WAY IN THE SOVIET UNION AS IN SPAIN." SHE REAFFIRMED THAT THE PCE WOULD ACCEPT THE POPULAR DECI-

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SION AT THE POLLS. TURNING TO HER APPARENT POLICY
DIFFERENCES WITH CARRILLO, SHE DENIED THEIR EXISTENCE,
AFFIRMED HER LOYALTY TO THE PCE "LINE", AND NOTED,
"I AM A VERY DISCIPLINED MILITANT".

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6. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN PALMA DE MALLORCA MAY24,
CARRILLO AGAIN DENIED THAT ANY DIFFERENCES EXISTED,
CALLING SUCH REPORTS "ELECTORAL TRICKS" OF THE
OPPOSITION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE MOVED QUITE SKILL-
FULLY TO SOFTEN THE EFFECTS OF ANY FUTURE GAFFES BY
DOLORES, BY COMPARING HER TO THE AGED PABLO IGLESIAS
IN THE DAYS OF HIS (CARRILLO'S) YOUTH; "PABLO
IGLESIAS WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY..AND
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SICK AND STAYED AT HOME WITHOUR
ATTENDING A SINGLE MEETING, BECAUSE OF THE GREAT VENERA-
TION IN WHICH HE WAS HELD... HE WAS ALWAYS ELECTED TO
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PARLIAMENT BY THE WORKERS. IN A SIMILAR MANNER, LA PASIONARIA AT THIS TIME IS THE SYMBOL OF A TRADITION OF WORKER' STRUGGLE."

7. PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZALEZ TOOK ADVANTAGE OF PCE DIFFERENCES TO COMMENT,"WHEN THE DEBATE BETWEEN DOLORES IBARRURI AND SANTIAGO CARRILLO FINISHES, WE MAY REALLY KNOW WHAT THE PCE ADVOCATES".
STABLER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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